

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 MCT-01 ACDA-10 IO-14
TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7985
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
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UNCLAS LONDON 14768

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EI, UK
SUBJECT: POLICE COOPERATION UNCOVERS IRA ARMS CHANNEL

1. ACCORDING TO A SEPTEMBER 4 SUNDAY TIMES REPORT, THE IRISH GARDA SIOCHANA'S AUGUST 27 DISCOVERY OF 300 POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES, FIVE REVOLVERS, TWO ARMALITE RIFLES AND AMMUNITION IN A DUBLIN TRUCKING YARD WAS THE RESULT OF SCOTLAND YARD INVESTIGATIONS AND CONFIRMED THAT THE PROVISIONAL IRA (PIRA) USES HIDDEN COMPARTMENTS IN CARGO CONTAINERS TO MOVE EXPLOSIVES AND ARMS. THE ST REPORTED THAT HMG BELIEVES THE SEIZED CARGO WAS DESTINED FOR A CLANDESTINE PIRA UNIT IN BRITAIN WHICH IS PREPARING TO MOUNT A NEW TERRORIST OFFENSIVE. POLICE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE IRISH SEA ARE FOLLOWING UP VARIOUS LEADS IN THE

2. THE DISCOVERY OF THE PIRA'S SMUGGLING CHANNEL, ACCORDING TO THE ST, WAS THE RESULT OF A COMPLAINT RECEIVED FROM A DUBLIN TRUCKER. TWO MEN EARLIER APPROACHED THE DUBLIN TRUCKING FIRM AND ASKED THAT IT CARRY AN EMPTY CARGO CONTAINER THEY WOULD PROVIDE TO BRITAIN TO
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PICK UP A LOAD OF FURNITURE AND RETURN IT TO DUBLIN. THE TRUCKING FIRM AGREED, BUT WHEN ITS DRIVER REACHED THE FERRY, HE FOUND THAT THE EMPTY CONTAINER WAS TOO HIGH TO GO ON THE FERRY. HE RETURNED TO THE TRUCKING YARD AND EXCHANGED IT FOR A SMALLER CONTAINER WHICH HE DROVE TO BRITAIN. UPON MEETING HIS CUSTOMERS AND TELLING THEM THAT HE HAD CHANGED CONTAINERS, THEY BECAME

ABUSIVE AND REFUSED TO PAY HIM. HE THEN REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO THE BRITISH POLICE WHO NOTIFIED THE GARDA.

3. COMMENT: THIS SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF BRITISH/IRISH POLICE COOPERATION CONFIRMED WHAT HMG OFFICIALS HAVE LONG BELIEVED -- THAT THE PIRA HAS BEEN USING CARGO CONTAINERS TO MOVE ILLICIT CARGO --AND WOULD SEEM TO SET BACK ANY PIRA PLANS TO RESUME TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN BRITAIN. THE PIRA, HOWEVER, CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO MOUNT AN "OFFENSIVE" IN BRITAIN.

BREWSTER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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